

§ 5556. Solar energy demonstration facilities program

(a) Authorization for design and construction of facilities; objectives

The Chairman is authorized to initiate a program to design and construct, in specific solar energy technologies (including, but not limited to, those listed in section 5555(c) of this title,¹ facilities or powerplants of sufficient size to demonstrate the technical and economic feasibility of utilizing the various forms of solar energy. The specific goals of such programs shall include—

- (1) production of electricity from a number of powerplants, on the order of one to ten megawatts each;
- (2) production of synthetic fuels in commercial quantities;
- (3) large-scale utilization of solar energy in the form of direct heat;
- (4) utilization of thermal and all other by-products of the solar facilities;
- (5) design and development of hybrid systems involving the concomitant utilization of solar and other energy sources; and
- (6) the continuous operation of such plants and facilities for a period of time.

(b) Criteria for determination to proceed from development program to demonstration

For each of the technologies for which a successful and appropriate development program is completed, the Chairman shall make a determination to proceed to demonstration based on criteria including, but not necessarily limited to, the following:

- (1) the technological feasibility of the project;
- (2) the costs and benefits of the project, as determined by an economic assessment;
- (3) the immediate and the potential uses of the solar energy utilized in the project;
- (4) long-term national need for the technology;
- (5) environmental impact;
- (6) potential for technology transfer to other applications; and
- (7) the nature and extent of Federal participation, if any, in the project.

(c) Establishment of one or more projects utilizing each form of solar energy

In carrying out his responsibilities under this section, the Chairman, acting through the appropriate Federal agencies, may provide for the establishment of one or more demonstration projects utilizing each form of solar energy, which shall include, as appropriate, the specific research, development, pilot plant construction and operation, demonstration plant construction and operation, and other facilities and activities which may be necessary to show commercial viability of the specific solar technology.

(d) Investigation and agreements for cooperative development of demonstration facilities

The Chairman, acting through the appropriate Federal agencies, is authorized to investigate

and enter into agreements for the cooperative development of facilities to demonstrate solar technologies. The responsible Federal agency may consider—

- (1) cooperative agreements with non-Federal entities for construction of facilities and equipment to demonstrate solar energy technologies; and
- (2) cooperative agreements with other Federal agencies for the construction of facilities and equipment and operation of facilities to produce energy for direct Federal utilization.

(e) Construction and operation of demonstration projects without cooperative agreements

The Chairman, acting through appropriate Federal agencies is authorized to construct and operate demonstration projects without entering into cooperative agreements with respect to such projects, if the Chairman finds that—

- (1) the nature of the resource, the geographical location, the scale and engineering design of the facilities, the techniques of production, or any other significant factor of the specific demonstration project offers opportunities to make important contributions to the general knowledge of solar resources, the techniques of its development, or public confidence in the technology; and
- (2) there is no opportunity for cooperative agreements with any non-Federal entity willing and able to cooperate in the demonstration project under subsection (d)(1) of this section, and there is no opportunity for cooperative agreements with other Federal agencies under subsection (d)(2) of this section.

(f) Additional appropriations for projects exceeding maximum amount

If the estimate of the Federal investment with respect to construction and operation costs of any demonstration project proposed to be established under this section exceeds \$20,000,000, no amount may be appropriated for such project except as specifically authorized by legislation hereafter enacted by the Congress.

(g) Disposition of Federal property interests, electricity, synthetic fuels, and other byproducts upon completion of project

(1) At the conclusion of any demonstration project established under this section, or as soon thereafter as may be practicable, the responsible Federal agencies shall, by sale, lease, or otherwise, dispose of all Federal property interests which they have acquired pursuant to this section in accordance with existing law and the terms of the cooperative agreements involved.

(2) The agency involved shall, under appropriate agreements or other arrangements, provide for the disposition of electricity, synthetic fuels, and other byproducts of the project administered by such agency.

(Pub. L. 93-473, §7, Oct. 26, 1974, 88 Stat. 1434.)

§ 5556a. Solar photovoltaic energy systems studies and acquisitions by Secretary of Energy; scope, contents, and submission dates for reports; acquisition authority and requirements; authorization of appropriations

(a) The Secretary of Energy shall—

¹ So in original. Probably should be preceded by a closing parenthesis.

(1) initiate and conduct an “application and system design study”, cooperatively with appropriate Federal agencies, to determine the potential for the use of solar photovoltaic systems at specific Federal installations; and this study shall—

(A) include an analysis of those sites that are currently cost-effective for solar photovoltaic energy systems, using life-cycle costing techniques, as well as those which would be cost-effective at expected future market prices;

(B) identify potential sites and uses of solar photovoltaic energy systems at the following agencies as well as any others which the Secretary of Energy deems necessary:

- (i) the Department of Defense;
- (ii) the Department of Transportation (including the United States Coast Guard, the Federal Aviation Administration, and the Federal Highway Administration);
- (iii) the Department of Commerce;
- (iv) the Department of Agriculture; and
- (v) the Department of the Interior;

(C) provide a preliminary report to Congress within nine months following February 25, 1978;

(D) include the presentation of a detailed plan for the implementation of solar photovoltaic energy systems for power generation at specific sites in Federal Government agencies to Congress within twelve months following February 25, 1978;

(2) initiate and conduct a study of the options available to the Federal Government to provide for the adequate growth of the solar photovoltaic industry and to include such possible incentives as government funding, loan guarantees, tax incentives, the operation of pilot plants or production lines and other incentives deemed worthy of consideration by the Secretary of Energy. A preliminary report shall be submitted to Congress within six months following February 25, 1978;

(3) initiate and conduct a study involving the prospects for applications of solar photovoltaic energy systems for power generation in foreign countries, particularly lesser developed countries, and the potential for the exportation of these energy systems. This study shall involve the cooperation of the Department of State and the Department of Commerce, as well as other Federal agencies which the Secretary of Energy deems appropriate. A final report shall be submitted to the Congress, as well as a preliminary report within twelve months of February 25, 1978; and

(4) be authorized to acquire up to an additional 4.0 megawatts (peak) of solar photovoltaic energy systems. The sum of \$13,000,000 is hereby authorized to be appropriated (in addition to any other amounts authorized by this Act to be appropriated) for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1978, and for delivery in the following twelve months. Such sums shall remain available until expended. The solar photovoltaic energy systems acquired shall be available for use for power generation by Federal agencies, provided that no procurement takes place until their application on Federal

sites is determined to be life cycle cost effective.

(b) For technology development, particularly for engineering design and development of the manufacturing process of solar photovoltaic energy systems (primarily for the implementation of automated processes and other cost reducing production technologies), the sum of \$6,000,000 is hereby authorized by this Act to be appropriated for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1978.

(Pub. L. 95-238, title II, §208, Feb. 25, 1978, 92 Stat. 75.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

This Act, referred to in subsec. (a)(4), means Pub. L. 95-238, Feb. 25, 1978, 92 Stat. 47, as amended, known as the Department of Energy Act of 1978—Civilian Applications. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Tables.

CODIFICATION

Section was enacted as part of the Department of Energy Act of 1978—Civilian Applications, and not as part of the Solar Energy Research, Development, and Demonstration Act of 1974 which comprises this subchapter.

TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS

For transfer of authorities, functions, personnel, and assets of the Coast Guard, including the authorities and functions of the Secretary of Transportation relating thereto, to the Department of Homeland Security, and for treatment of related references, see sections 468(b), 551(d), 552(d), and 557 of Title 6, Domestic Security, and the Department of Homeland Security Reorganization Plan of November 25, 2002, as modified, set out as a note under section 542 of Title 6.

NONAPPLICABILITY OF TITLE II OF PUB. L. 95-238 TO ANY AUTHORIZATION OR APPROPRIATION FOR MILITARY APPLICATION OF NUCLEAR ENERGY, ETC.; DEFINITIONS

Nonapplicability of provisions of title II of Pub. L. 95-238 with respect to any authorization or appropriation for any military application of nuclear energy, etc., see section 209 of Pub. L. 95-238, set out as a note under section 5821 of this title.

§ 5557. Solar Energy Information Data Bank

(a) **Establishment; utilization of other Federal agencies; information and data to be compiled; retrieval and dissemination services; utilization of existing scientific and technical information**

(1) In carrying out his functions under this subchapter the Chairman, utilizing the capabilities of the National Science Foundation, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the Department of Commerce, the Atomic Energy Commission, and other appropriate Federal agencies to the maximum extent possible, shall establish and operate a Solar Energy Information Data Bank (hereinafter in this subsection referred to as the “bank”) for the purpose of collecting, reviewing, processing, and disseminating information and data in all of the solar energy technologies referred to in section 5556(c) of this title in a timely and accurate manner in support of the objectives of this subchapter.

(2) Information and data compiled in the bank shall include—

(A) technical information (including reports, journal articles, dissertations, monographs,